

APPENDIX A

Claims

1. (previously presented) A computer-implemented visualization model of similarity

relationships between documents comprising:

performing a similarity search in a database based on at least one reference attribute of a

at least one reference document to find at least one target document with at least one

target attribute having a similarity relationship to the at least one reference attribute;

creating unique visualization model nodes corresponding to the at least one reference

document and the at least one target document;

assigning properties to the unique visualization model nodes including form item, link

count, group ID, hidden count, locked, caption, color, hierarchical level, selected and

ID;

creating unique visualization model edges corresponding to the similarity relationships

between the at least one reference document and the at least one target document;

assigning properties to the unique visualization model edges including from node, from

node ID, to node, to node ID, query list, caption, color, visible, selected and ID;

displaying the unique visualization model nodes and the unique visualization model

edges on a graphical user interface; and

indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes

by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the at least one target document that is similarity searched reside in a plurality of databases.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the similarity search returns a result set of the at least one reference document, the at least one document, and similarity relationships between the at least one reference document and the at least one target document

that are used by the visualization model to create the unique visualization model nodes corresponding to the documents and the unique visualization model edges corresponding to the similarity relationships between the documents.

4. (previously presented) A computer-implemented interactive visualization model of similarity relationships between documents comprising:

using a similarity search performed on reference attributes of a reference document which results in a set of 0 to n target documents with target attributes having similarity relationships with the reference attributes;

creating visualization model nodes corresponding to the reference document and each target document;

performing a lookup on a unique nodes list for determining if the created visualization model nodes already exists, adding the created visualization model nodes to the unique nodes list if the created visualization model nodes are not on the unique nodes list, and designating the visualization model nodes on the unique nodes list as unique visualization model nodes;

creating visualization model edges corresponding to the similarity relationships between the reference document and each target document;

performing a lookup on a unique edges list for determining if the created visualization model edges already exists, adding the created visualization model edges to the unique edges list if the created visualization model edges are not on the unique edges list, and designating the visualization model edges on the unique edges list as unique visualization model edges;

displaying the unique visualization model nodes corresponding to the reference

documents and each target document and the unique visualization model edges corresponding to the similarity relationships on a graphical user interface; and indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising allowing a user using the graphical user interface to initiate the similarity search and select attributes of the reference document to be used in the similarity search.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, further comprising allowing a user using the graphical user interface to choose any attributes of the reference document to be used in the similarity search.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 further comprising using attributes of a target document as a source for a new search.

8. (previously presented) A computer-implemented visualization model of similarities between documents comprising:

displaying a reference hierarchical object;

allowing a user to initiate a similarity search, based on at least one attribute of the reference hierarchical object, to find at least one target hierarchical object;

visually representing a unique visualization model reference node corresponding to the reference hierarchical object and a unique visualization model target node corresponding to the at least one target hierarchical object that meet a similarity search criteria;

visually representing a unique visualization model edge corresponding to a similarity relationship between the reference hierarchical object and each target hierarchical object;

displaying the visual representations of the unique visualization model nodes and the unique visualization_model edge on a graphical user interface; and
 indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein the unique visualization model node comprises:

a reference to the hierarchical object the model node represents;
 a reference to at least one attribute of the hierarchical object used in the similarity search to determine if a unique visualization_model edge exists; and
 visual properties of the hierarchical document the unique visualization_model node represents.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8 further comprising storing the visual representation of the unique visualization reference model node, each unique visualization target model node, and each unique visualization model edge in computer memory or on disk.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein the unique visualization model edge comprises:

an identifier of the unique visualization reference model node from which the visual representation of the unique visualization model edge will extend and an identifier of the at least one unique visualization target model node to which the visual representation of the unique visualization model edge will extend; and
 a list of the similarity search attributes used in the similarity search.

12 (original) The method according to claim 11 further comprising user chosen attributes to be used in the similarity search.

13. (previously presented) A computer-implemented method of visualizing similarity

relationships between documents comprising:

using a reference hierarchical document;

performing a similarity search based on user selected attributes of the reference

hierarchical document and determining a result set of target documents comprising 0

to n hierarchical documents;

converting each hierarchical document to a unique visualization model node that visually

represents each hierarchical document to be displayed on a graphical user interface;

using the similarity search results, creating a unique visualization model edge that

visually represents the similarities between the reference hierarchical document and

each hierarchical document in the result set to be displayed on a graphical user

interface; and

indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes

by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising displaying the unique visualization model edge and the unique visualization model node on a graphical user interface.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein each unique visualization model edge indicates a degree of similarity between the reference hierarchical object and the target hierarchical object and is displayed as a line connecting unique visualization model nodes, said model nodes being depicted as geometric shapes on the graphical user interface.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the length of the line connecting the unique visualization model nodes varies as a function of the degree of similarity between the reference document and the target document referenced by the unique visualization model nodes.

17. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the visual representation is three dimensional.

18. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for a visualization model of similarity relationships between documents comprising:

performing a similarity search in a database based on at least one reference attribute of a
at least one reference document to find at least one target document with at least one
target attribute having a similarity relationship to the at least one reference document;
creating unique visualization model nodes corresponding to the at least one reference
document and the at least one target document;
assigning properties to the unique visualization model nodes including form item, link
count, group ID, hidden count, locked, caption, color, hierarchical level, selected and
ID;
creating unique visualization model edges corresponding to the similarity relationships
between the at least one reference document and the at least one target document;
assigning properties to the unique visualization model edges including from node, from
node ID, to node, to node ID, query list, caption, color, visible, selected and ID;
displaying the unique visualization model nodes and the unique visualization model
edges on a graphical user interface; and
indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes
by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

19. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for a visualization model of similarities between documents comprising:

displaying a reference hierarchical object;
allowing a user to initiate a similarity search, based on at least one attribute of the

reference hierarchical object, to find at least one target hierarchical object;
 visually representing a unique visualization model reference node corresponding to the
 reference hierarchical object and a unique visualization model target node
 corresponding to the at least one target hierarchical object that meet a similarity
 search criteria;
 visually representing a unique visualization model edge corresponding to a similarity
 relationship between the reference hierarchical object and each target hierarchical
 object;
 displaying the visual representations of the unique visualization model nodes and the
 unique visualization model edge on a graphical user interface; and
 indicating a degree of similarity between the displayed unique visualization model nodes
 by the displayed unique visualization model edges.

20. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for a computer-implemented interactive visualization model of similarity relationships between documents according to the steps of claim 4.

21. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for a computer-implemented method of visualizing relationships between documents according to the steps of claim 13.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visualization model is selected from the group consisting of a two dimensional link chart visualization, a three dimensional visualization, a model explorer visualization, a cross database visualization, and a data landscape visualization.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the visualization model is selected

from the group consisting of a two dimensional link chart visualization, a three dimensional visualization, a model explorer visualization, a cross database visualization, and a data landscape visualization.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the visualization model is selected from the group consisting of a two dimensional link chart visualization, a three dimensional visualization, a model explorer visualization, a cross database visualization, and a data landscape visualization.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the visualization model is selected from the group consisting of a two dimensional link chart visualization, a three dimensional visualization, a model explorer visualization, a cross database visualization, and a data landscape visualization.

ATTACHMENT A

Declaration of Common Ownership

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/677,476 and U.S. Patent No. 6,618,727 (U.S. Patent Application No. 09/401,101) were, at the time the invention of U.S. Application No. 09/677,476 was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity, namely Infoglide Corporation of Austin, Texas. The corresponding assignment documents are recorded in the U.S. Patent Office.

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